1. (Withdrawn) A valve for discharging liquid from a container having a wall defining thereon an outlet, comprising:

a valve body having a top surface, a bottom surface and a side surface, the valve body defining a passageway therein and attachable to the container so as to form a sealing contact around the outlet;

a stopper movable between an open and closed positions, the stopper preventing fluid flow through the passage way when the stopper is in the closed position, and permitting fluid flow through the passageway when the stopper is in the open position, the passageway being in fluid communication with the outlet when the valve body is attached to the container, and the stopper is in the open position; and

an elastic rib integrally formed with the valve body and the stopper, the elastic rib having an adequate length to maintain the stopper in the first position absent external forces.

2. (Withdrawn) The valve of claim 1, wherein the elastic rib is in a stretched state when the stopper is in the closed position, and the elastic rib being stretched further when the stopper is in the open position than when the stopper is in the closed position.

3. (Withdrawn) The valve of claim 1, wherein the valve body is substantially cylindrical and the passageway is disposed substantially along the longitudinal axis of the valve body.

4. (Withdrawn) The valve of claim 3, wherein the elastic rib defines a first end integrally formed with the bottom surface of the valve body and a second end integrally formed with the stopper, and wherein the elastic rib extends through the passageway.

5. (Withdrawn) The valve of claim 3, further comprising an elastic stem interconnecting the elastic rib and the stopper.

6. (Currently Amended) A valve for discharging liquid from a container having a wall defining thereon an outlet, comprising:

a valve body having a top surface, a bottom surface and a side surface, the valve body defining a passageway therein and ~~attachabe~~ **attachable** to the container so as to form a sealing contact around the outlet, the passageway being in fluid communication with the outlet when the valve body is attached to the container;

a flexible barrier having a thickness and integrally formed with the valve body, the barrier interrupting the passageway and defining a slit through the thickness, the barrier being sufficiently resilient to prevent the liquid flow through the slit from the container under the weight of the water inside the container.

7. (Original) The valve of claim 6, wherein the slit comprises a plurality of slits.

8. (Original) The valve of claim 6, wherein the slit is generally H-shaped.

9. (Withdrawn) The valve of claim 6, wherein the slit is generally C-shaped.

10. (Withdrawn) The valve of claim 6, wherein the slit is generally T-shaped.

11. (Withdrawn) A humidifier water bottle assembly including a valve for discharging liquid therefrom, comprising:

a flexible member defining a base and a generally cylindrical sidewall extending from the base, the sidewall having an outer surface;

a container defining an outlet having generally cylindrical collar, the flexible member removably received within the collar such that the outer surface of the flexible member sidewall seals against the collar when the base is in a first undeformed position;

the sidewall defining at least one opening therethrough, wherein when the base is deformed from the first position, the sidewall is pulled away from the collar so as to allow fluid flow through the opening.

12. (Withdrawn) A humidifier water bottle assembly including a valve for discharging liquid therefrom, comprising:

a container defining a fluid outlet; and

a flexible member having first and second ends, the first end being attached to the container;

the second end defining a stopper, extending through the outlet in a sealing relationship, the stopper being positioned to be displaced from the outlet when the container is received in a humidifier mechanism.

13. (Withdrawn) The water bottle assembly of claim 12, wherein the bottle defines a second opening therethrough, and wherein the flexible member first end defines a bulb extending therefrom received in the second opening so as to seal the second opening and attach the flexible member to the container.

14. (Withdrawn) A valve for discharging liquid from a container having a wall defining thereon an outlet, comprising:

a cap removably attachable to the container so as to form a sealing relationship with the outlet, the cap defining a passageway therein; and

a flexible member having first and second ends, the first end being attached to the cap;

the second end defining a stopper extending through the passageway in a sealing relationship, the stopper being positioned to be displaced from the passageway when the container is received in a humidifier mechanism.

15. (Withdrawn) The valve of claim 14, wherein the cap defines a second opening therethrough, and wherein the flexible member first end defines a bulb extending therefrom received in the second opening so as to seal the second opening and attach the flexible member to the cap.

16. (New) A liquid container assembly, comprising:

a bottle defining an outlet;

a valve for discharging liquid from the bottle, the valve including:

a body having a top surface, a bottom surface and a side surface, the valve body defining a passageway therein, the valve being attachable to the bottle so as to form a sealing contact with the outlet, the passageway being in fluid communication with the outlet when the valve body is attached to the bottle; and

a flexible barrier having a thickness and integrally formed with the valve body, the barrier interrupting the passageway and defining a slit through the thickness, the barrier being sufficiently resilient to prevent the liquid flow through the slit from the container under the weight of water inside the bottle.

17. (New) The liquid container assembly of claim 16, wherein the slit is generally H-shaped.

18. (New) A humidifier assembly, comprising:

a water tray;

a water bottle defining an outlet;

a valve for discharging water from the bottle into the water tray, the valve including:

a body having a top surface, a bottom surface and a side surface, the valve body defining a passageway therein, the valve being attachable to the bottle so as to form a sealing contact with the outlet, the passageway being in fluid

communication with the outlet when the valve body is attached to the bottle; and

a flexible barrier having a thickness and integrally formed with the valve body, the barrier interrupting the passageway and defining a slit through the thickness, the barrier being sufficiently resilient to prevent the liquid flow through the slit from the container under the weight of water inside the bottle; and

a member protruding from the water tray situated to exert a force against the flexible barrier so as to deform the flexible barrier and open the slit to allow water to escape from the slit into the water tray.